

January 23, 2006

Nicole Watkins

Mineola, N.Y. – Nicole Watkins, 42, is a former prosecutor who served in the Manhattan District Attorney's office. She brings a wide range of legal experience to her new role as Director of Medicaid Investigations, leading Nassau County's effort to unearth Medicaid waste, fraud and abuse.

As an assistant district attorney in the Manhattan DA's Special Prosecutions and Trial Bureaus, Watkins investigated and prosecuted complex financial crimes. She also built hundreds of domestic violence and child abuse cases. Watkins handled all aspects of these cases, including interviewing witnesses, developing trial strategies, presenting cases to grand juries and conducting trials.

Watkins also supervised the district attorney's Early Case Assessment Bureau, screening new arrests to determine if they warranted prosecution, and interviewing victims and witnesses.

As a prosecutor, Watkins gained valuable experience in building bridges with outside organizations. She worked closely with various law enforcement agencies and served as a liaison to community outreach programs.

Watkins then served as senior attorney for International Service Systems, a 50,000-employee corporation based in Manhattan, and went on to become a partner at Atkins & O'Brien, a Manhattan Law Firm.

For the past six years, Watkins headed her own Brooklyn practice, representing clients in many types of cases, including criminal, immigration, commercial deals and real estate. She also served as an administrative law judge in New York City's Parking Violations Bureau.

Watkins, a Lynbrook resident, received her law degree from Hofstra University and bachelor's from Syracuse University.